

Highlights

- ✓ Ten new Firefighter positions are included in the budget to staff aerial truck companies.
- ✓ Seven Firefighters and three Fire Captain positions have been included to supplement station staffing in east Wichita. A new East station is included in the CIP.
- ✓ Over \$1 million in overtime and holiday pay is budgeted, based on contractual requirements (for IAFF-represented positions) and FLSA requirements.
- ✓ Equipment reliability and effectiveness will be enhanced considerably in the future, with the replacement of approximately one half of the fire apparatus fleet.
- ✓ The Insurance Service Organization rating for City of Wichita residents continues to be a 3, saving local citizens millions in homeowners fire insurance premiums.

The mission of the Fire Department is to minimize the loss of life and property resulting from fires, medical emergencies and other disasters through prevention, education and fire suppression activities.

Overview

The Department provides fire suppression and emergency response from 18 stations strategically located throughout Wichita. The Department is organized into two divisions: Operations and Administration.

The Department operates a training facility. On average, staff trains 18 recruits annually, as well as continuously refreshing and updating the training and preparedness of all fire suppression staff. Maintenance of fire apparatus is coordinated through a central maintenance facility, managed by the Public Works Department.

The Department maintains a four-member Arson Investigation unit, which investigates all suspicious fires. Arson investigators also assist in the inspection function, along with three other inspector positions. Additional positions are dedicated to public education and prevention.

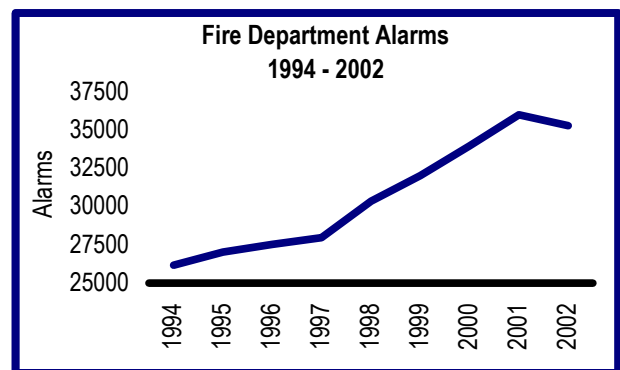
Finance and Operations

The operating budget for the Fire Department is financed entirely from the General Fund. During this budget period, \$14.5 million in CIP funds is included to comprehensively relocate fire stations, and to construct two new stations. The moves will allow the Fire Department to adequately service newly annexed areas, while enhancing the responsiveness to existing citizens. Over 30 years, the capital investment in station relocation and construction is expected to save over \$30 million in operating costs. The relocation of five stations in 2003 has occurred, with three more relocations and two new stations planned in the next five years.



Station 4, located at Irving and McCormick in southwest Wichita, opened in the spring of 2003. This station was one of eight to be relocated as part of the comprehensive station relocation program.

The Fire Operations budget includes nearly \$24 million for wages for the 370 front line firefighters who provide 24-hour emergency response to City residents from a network of 18 stations. Firefighters respond to over 35,000 alarms each year, including 1,800 fires and almost 23,200 medical alarms. In recent years, alarm volume has increased significantly, primarily in the area of medical calls (2002 volume is down slightly due to a review of responses to non-emergency medical calls).



Fire Operations. The majority of the Fire Department resources are focused on fire suppression and medical response activities. The services are provided by fire staff located at stations throughout Wichita. Currently, there are 18 stations, with two more planned in the future. In addition, the strategic relocation of eight stations will provide optimum response time. Currently, each station is generally staffed with five firefighters and two pieces of equipment, a quick response vehicle and a fire engine. At battalion stations, additional fire engines are staffed. Aerials and tenders are available at five stations. Three Battalion Chiefs provide direct supervision to Operations staff.

Fire Dept. - Selected Performance Measures					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Average Response time (min)	4.24	4.48	4.36	4.30	4.30
Fire contained to room of origin	95%	91%	89%	90%	90%
Average dollar loss per fire (thousands)	6.50	5.89	6.21	6.50	6.40
Number of blood pressure screenings	12,248	11,596	11,842	12,300	12,300

Performance of the fire suppression staff is measured in a variety of ways. Response time is maintained at a reasonable level through the number and location of stations, and by fully staffing fire stations. Over \$1 million is included for overtime and holiday pay, based on contractual obligations and the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Fire suppression staff are actively involved in the neighborhoods surrounding the stations. Staff often provide station tours, give safety presentations and participate in neighborhood block parties. As part of a neighborhood outreach effort, free blood pressure screenings are provided and firefighters often are invited to and participate in neighborhood events.

The Fire Department maintains a hazardous materials team and specialty rescue teams, including a heavy rescue team, a high angle rescue team and a water rescue team. In recent years, events such as the DeBruce Elevator explosion, the Baby Jesse well rescue, the tornados of the recent past years, and the West Wichita floods have highlighted a need for enhanced rescue equipment and training. The needs have been addressed by earmarking equipment replacement funds for rescue team needs. In addition, a new heavy rescue vehicle was purchased in 2002.

While response time is important, appropriate and well-maintained equipment is also necessary to improve the percentage of fires contained to room of origin, and the average dollar loss per fire. The budget continues the initiative to replace hoses and nozzles on a ten-year replacement program to ensure reliability. The budget also continues the ladder replacement program, in which all of the Department's field ladders will be modernized. Recently, the department's

breathing apparatus was upgraded with new equipment designed to enhance safety for fire suppression staff. The cost of these upgrades was partially offset by \$151,395 in federal grant funds. Currently, the department is seeking grant funding for the replacement of hand held radios.



The Heavy Rescue 4 Truck was delivered in 2002. In the next five years, approximately one half of the front line apparatus will be replaced allowing vehicle usability to increase, maintenance costs to decrease, and officer safety to improve.

Maintenance. The Fire Department operates a fleet of 53 apparatus and various support vehicles. In 2002, the responsibility for maintaining this equipment was transferred from Fire to Public Works – Central Maintenance Facility. Smaller compact sedans have continuously been maintained by Central Maintenance Facility. Fire apparatus maintenance, under the direction of Public Works, is performed in a Fire Maintenance facility centrally located near downtown.

The Fire Building Maintenance section was streamlined in 2001 with the transfer of one position from Fire to Public Works. In addition, fire hydrant maintenance was consolidated within the Water Department, resulting in the transfer of one position from the Fire Department to the Water Department. On-duty firefighters continue to support both activities.

Arson Investigation. Four investigator positions are budgeted at a cost of over \$260,000, including one Captain and three Lieutenants. Coverage is provided on 24 hour shifts by the Lieutenants, with the Captain supplementing operations on a 40 hour schedule. Annually Arson staff investigate approximately 300 fires and make about 30 arrests. In the past, the conviction rate for cases tried has been over 90 percent. Each arson investigators determines causation of 70 fires

Arson Investigation Performance Measures					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Fires investigated	276	287	238	230	230
Fires determined to be of suspicious nature	94	108	102	100	95
Fires investigated per investigator	69	72	60	58	58
Arrests	22	21	35	30	30
Conviction rate	90%	90%	90%	100%	100%

annually on average and makes an average of nine arrests annually.

Safety and Training. Six positions (five commissioned) attached to Fire Operations perform safety officer and training functions for the Department. The positions include three Captains on 24-hour shifts and three 40-hour employees. Safety Officers are dispatched to every fire and major accident, and direct the response of fire crews to ensure firefighter safety. One position is dedicated to airpack and other equipment maintenance and certification, while another coordinates medical training and quality control. In addition, the safety and training staff are responsible for fire recruit training and for developing drill training.

Fire Prevention. The budget funds nine positions dedicated to public education and inspections functions. Inspection duties include high hazard occupancies, high rise buildings, health care and day care facilities, schools, hospitals and grain elevators. This section also monitors burn permits, inspects applicants for liquor licenses, and ensures citizen safety at events including fireworks displays and concerts. Fire Operations staff heavily supplement the inspection function, performing over 80 percent of the inspections.

Prevention Performance Measures					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Civilian fire deaths (per 100,000 population)	2.07	1.44	.86	.85	.85
Civilian fire injuries (per 100,000 population)	8.6	8.9	10.4	8.0	8.0
Building Inspections	n/a	3,123	3,856	3,900	3,900

Public Education staff conduct fire safety and prevention training in addition to inspections on properties requiring state certification. Staff develop programs to assist large corporations in emergency evacuation procedures, and assist in training for Operations Division staff. The public education role is supplemented by Operations staff with station tours, smoke detector installation and other activities.

In 2000, three positions were shifted from Fire to OCI to enhance the efficiency of this area. These staff coordinate with inspectors from the Office of Central Inspection to review plans related to fire suppression systems, fire alarm systems, fire apparatus access, and water supply analysis. In addition, plans review for special occupancies including hazardous waste facilities and chemical storage areas are performed in coordination with OCI. As commissioned positions performing this role have separated from service, these tasks have been integrated into the workload of OCI Inspectors. Currently, one commissioned position remains.

Administration. The Fire Chief and six civilian personnel handle the administrative oversight of the department. A civilian Assistant to the Chief is responsible for monitoring budgetary compliance, purchasing, soliciting grants, supervising payroll functions and providing general support to the Chief. The administration of the Firehouse software system is performed in the Operations section, with support from the staff of Information Technology. Firehouse was implemented in 2000, replacing an antiquated system used to log alarm call information. The new system has the capability to integrate call data, fleet maintenance and inspection data into one centralized system.

Fire Department Budget Summary					
	2002 Actual	2003 Adopted	2003 Revised	2004 Adopted	2005 Approved
Personal Services	23,120,075	24,530,060	23,412,260	25,424,560	26,223,080
Contractual Services	1,542,970	1,525,870	1,330,130	1,500,620	1,505,120
Commodities	557,355	505,610	489,450	503,820	503,820
Capital Outlay	0	40,100	20,900	20,900	20,900
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fire Expenditures	25,220,400	26,601,640	25,252,740	27,449,900	28,252,920
FEMA – Asst to Firefighters Grant	151,935	0	0	0	0
General Fund	25,068,465	26,601,640	25,252,740	27,449,900	28,252,920
Total Fire resources	25,220,400	26,601,640	25,252,740	27,449,900	28,252,920
Total full-time positions	370	397	370	390	390
Total civilian positions	8	7	7	7	7
Total FTE positions	378	404	377	397	397



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FLIGHT



"The Earth Below, The Sky Above"

Artist: Amboo Ploy
Where: 100 N. Broadway
(Broadway & Douglas)
Sponsor: Wichita Downtown Development Corporation (WDDC)
Benefits: WDDC

"At Your Service"

Artist: Wide Bodies
Where: Hilton Wichita Airport
2098 Airport Road
Sponsor: Hilton Wichita Airport
Benefits: The Lord's Diner Foundation

